

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Revised Notice of Preparation of Environmental
Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting

Proposed Northern California Reentry Facility
Stockton, California

Re-circulation of EIR Scoping Notice: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has revised and is re-distributing a Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Northern California Reentry Facility (NCRF) on Arch Road in San Joaquin County near Stockton, California. The original NOP was released to the public and responsible agencies for a 30-day period on September 18, 2009. The proposed NCRF project, which would be built within the now-closed Northern California Women's Facility, would consist of a 500-bed secure reentry facility for inmates that are scheduled for parole to San Joaquin County, Amador County, and Calaveras County. The NCRF project site is situated just north and contiguous to the Northern California Youth Correctional Center (NCYCC). This revised notice is necessary to clarify the potential for additional correctional projects within close proximity of the NCRF site.

NCYCC consists of four CDCR Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) correctional facilities including the N.A. Chaderjian, O.H. Close, Karl Holton, and Dewitt Nelson complexes. The Karl Holton and Dewitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facilities are now closed and considered excess to DJJ's long-term housing needs. Based on the substantial reduction in the number of wards housed by DJJ it is not anticipated these facilities will be needed by DJJ in the foreseeable future. However, the N.A. Chaderjian and O.H. Close are currently operating and the DJJ believes these correctional facilities will be needed for many years.

Since the release of the original NOP there have been two developments at NCYCC that will affect the scope of the cumulative analysis for the NCRF EIR. In mid-October 2009 the California Prison Health Care Receiver (CPR) formally approved the California Health Care Facility at Stockton. This project involves the demolition and re-use of the Karl Holton site for a new 1,734-bed prison medical care facility that would be constructed and operated by CDCR. This facility was the subject of an EIR that was prepared and certified by CPR prior to the approval of the subject project. Copies of all the environmental documentation for the new CPR health care facility are available from the CDCR contact person identified in this notice. The environmental consequences of this new facility will be included in the basis of the analysis of cumulative effects of projects in the Arch Road area.

CDCR also has determined there is a potential for the re-use of the former DJJ Dewitt Nelson correctional facility for a proposed 1,133-bed correctional facility that would serve inmate mental health and medical health care needs. The new facility would involve the renovation of existing housing units at the Dewitt Nelson facility and construction of some additional buildings and infrastructure. Since this proposal remains at a conceptual level of facility planning there are no detailed plans available for this site at this time. However, the EIR for the NCRF project will address the potential cumulative environmental effects of this proposal. As with the NCRF project CDCR would be the lead agency for any conversion of the Dewitt Nelson complex to an adult correctional facility. Once there are more details on this proposal and it is confirmed that CDCR will pursue this project to help meet California's shortage of inmate medical and mental health services a separate environmental review process would be initiated by the department.

Recirculation of the NCRF NOP is intended to provide the community, responsible agencies, and representatives of local agencies with an additional opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental issues that will be addressed in the proposed reentry project EIR. In addition to recognition of the recent approval of the CPR health care project on the grounds of the Karl Holton facility and the conceptual proposal for the reuse of the Dewitt Nelson facility for an adult correctional facility other near-term projects will also be included in the cumulative impact analysis of the EIR. These include the California Conservation Corps (CCC) Delta Service Center (west of the NCRF site near Newcastle Road), the Opus light industrial development (on the north side of Arch Road), and the first phase of the Mariposa Lakes Specific Plan (southern planning area boundary is approximately one-half mile north of the NCRF site). CDCR will further coordinate with the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County to establish a complete list of proposed and approved projects that should be included in the DEIR's analysis for the reentry project.

Proposed Northern California Reentry Facility: The description of the proposed NCRF project has not substantially changed since the release of the September 18, 2009 EIR scoping notice. As authorized by California Penal Code Section 6275, CDCR proposes converting 134 acres of state-owned property adjacent to the northeast corner of NCYCC into an adult male secure community reentry facility that would be called the Northern California Reentry Facility (NCRF), Stockton. This site was originally constructed as the Northern California Women's Facility. More recently, the project site was used as a correctional officer training academy called the Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center Annex, which closed in 2009. The site is currently unused with the exception of occasional field training classes; the grounds and on-site structures are maintained but vacant.

The existing housing units at this site currently contain a total of 400 cells. The proposed project would convert 100 of these cells to double-bunked units for a total capacity of 500 inmates. The proposed facility would employ approximate 350-400 staff distributed over three shifts. The proposed conversion would involve construction of an approximately 16,000 square foot single-story medical building, as well as renovation of buildings for facility program support services, dining and receiving, family visiting, academic and vocational education, and miscellaneous support services.

Perimeter security for the re-entry facility would be enhanced to include a lethal electrified fence and three armed perimeter guard towers. Other project improvements would include the construction, repair, or replacement of boundary line fencing, roads, parking, outer perimeter landscaping, recreation yard improvements, site grading, site lighting, storm drainage improvements, and extension of utilities to each building. CDCR would upgrade the prison's electrical supply and distribution system, water and wastewater supply, storage, treatment, and disposal systems as part of this project. No new high-mast lighting would be added to the project site.

NOP Scoping Notice: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, CDCR (as lead agency) will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate environmental effects associated with the proposed reentry facility. In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, CDCR has prepared a Notice of Preparation and Initial Study to provide responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and the CEQA topical areas that will be evaluated in the EIR.

The environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR will include, but are not necessarily limited to: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation/traffic, aesthetics, light and glare, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems (water, wastewater, solid waste, etc.), greenhouse gas emissions, and cumulative and growth-inducing impacts.

Project Location: The proposed project site is located within the secure perimeter of the former Northern California Women's Facility and Richard A. McGee CTCA at 7150 East Arch Road, Stockton. The project site is adjacent to the northeast corner of the NCYCC. The site is less than two miles east of State Route 99 immediately southeast of the Stockton city limit in unincorporated central San Joaquin County.

Scoping Meeting: CDCR is holding two public scoping meetings on **December 10, 2009 at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM at San Joaquin Council of Governments Regional Center, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202.** The public scoping meeting is intended to receive comments on the scope and content of the environmental information CDCR will address in the EIR for the proposed reentry project.

Where to Review the NOP and How to Provide Comments: Copies of the NOP and Initial Study are available for review at the following locations:

Clerk-Recorder, Amador County
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Clerk-Recorder, Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

San Joaquin County Clerk
Pacific State Bank Building
6 South El Dorado Street, Second Floor Stockton, CA 95202

San Joaquin County Library
605 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

City Clerk, Stockton City Hall
425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Comments regarding the scope and content of environmental information CDCR should address in the EIR for the proposed project may be submitted in writing via regular mail or by fax through the last day of the scoping period. The NOP and Initial Study are available for a 30-day public review period from December 2, 2009 to January 4, 2010. Comments must be submitted and received no later than January 4, 2010. Comments shall be sent to:

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